GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3118
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Funds Released for Renewable Energy
Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether meager/ very less funds have been spent on research in the field of energy generation from the renewable sources like solar energy and wind energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the expenditure incurred on research and development in this regard during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the efforts made/ being made by the Government to bring down the cost of solar energy generation to the level of or less than the cost of energy generation from other sources?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL & NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): No, Madam. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been supporting Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) in all areas of new and renewable energy including solar and wind energy. Solar research received boost in the 11th Plan Period in view of the launch of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) in 2010. As a result, funding to the tune of Rs. 391.98 crore was done to various R&D/ academic institutes, industries, etc. for research in solar, out of total funds of Rs.524.63 crores sanctioned for all new and renewable energy projects during the 11th Plan Period. In wind, the technology development and acquisition has been mainly done by industry. However, the focus of the Ministry on research in wind has been on development of small scale wind machines and hybrid systems. An expenditure of Rs. 5.50 crore was done on research in wind in the 11th Plan Period. In addition, solar and wind resource assessment was carried out by the MNRE's institution, namely, National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), Chennai.

(b): RD&D undertaken strengthened R&D/ academic institutes, industries for furthering RD&D for technology development for commercialization. In solar photovoltaics, the focus has been on indigenous development of solar cells with improved efficiency that are at par with

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international level, with cost reduction. RD&D in solar thermal power provided feedback on
operational aspects of the technology for further development. In wind, RD&D in hybridization of solar and wind was pursued for ensuring improved energy supply from renewable energy. Solar and wind resources assessment carried out at NIWE, Chennai has helped project developers and industries in identification of sites for solar and wind energy installations in the country. During the last three years and the current year, a total expenditure of Rs.387.62 crore and Rs.58.95 crore has been incurred on RD&D in solar and wind, respectively.

(c): Presently, the Government is supporting solar energy generation in the country by providing a range of fiscal and financial incentives for promotion of solar energy generation under various schemes. These include capital and/ or interest subsidy, 100 per cent tax holiday on the earnings for 10 years, generation based incentive, accelerated depreciation, financing solar rooftop systems as part of home loan, and concessional excise and custom duties, preferential tariff for power generation from renewables and National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) support for on-lending to viable renewable energy projects by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). In addition, foreign direct investment up to 100% under the automatic route is permitted.

The tariff for solar power projects has come down to level of Rs. 4.63 per unit under the recent tender of NTPC for the State of Andhra Pradesh, which is quite competitive with cost of energy generation from other sources.
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